

January 13, 2003

To: Supervisor Yvonne Brathwaite Burke, Chair
Supervisor Gloria Molina
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky
Supervisor Don Knabe
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

From: David E. Janssen
Chief Administrative Officer

**MOTION TO SUPPORT AB 31 (RUNNER) – SCHOOL FINANCE EQUALIZATION –
(ITEM NO. 8, AGENDA OF JANUARY 14, 2003)**

Item No. 8 on your agenda for Tuesday, January 14, 2003, is a motion by Supervisor Antonovich to support AB 31 and to send a five signature letter of support to the Governor, President Pro Temp, Speaker, and Senate and Assembly minority leaders.

AB 31 will reappropriate \$203 million in the FY 2003-2004 fiscal year to equalize the per-pupil funding to schools. The purpose of “equalization” is to encourage actual pupil attendance and avoid a decrease in funding to schools.

Last year, the legislature appropriated \$406 million in equalization money and split the distribution of funds equally between two different formulas. One formula (older formula) determines the per-pupil equalization funding by adding the excused absences to the average daily attendance (ADA). The second formula, which was created in 1997 by SB 727 (Rosenthal), became effective in July 1998, and determined the per-pupil equalization funding based only on the ADA. The Governor vetoed the funding from the older formula and indicated that there should only be one formula for distributing equalization money. The Governor set aside the \$203 million and indicated he would sign legislation that reappropriated the \$203 million and distributed the funds in a manner consistent with the “Rosenthal” formula. AB 31 makes that reappropriation.

The County Office of Education has no position on this bill. It is their opinion that this bill will be merged with two other bills, AB 15 (Houston and Pacheco) and AB 48 (Simitian) which have substantially the same language as AB 31.

There is no existing Board policy on this issue. Therefore, a position on the bill is a matter for Board determination.

AB 31 was introduced on December 2, 2002, and has not been scheduled for a committee hearing. There is no support or opposition on record.

We will continue to keep you advised.

DEJ:GK

JL:ib

c: Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors
 County Counsel
 County Office of Education